

## **Names of God from the Bible**

### **31 – Husband**

*All God's Names are eternal names – so He is still Husband for us today.*

#### **Reading: Isaiah 54:1-8**

Marriage is a Biblical institution, and was designed to be the basic and fundamental nucleus for human society. Nevertheless, marriage is also multi-faceted.

God instituted marriage primarily for the reproduction of humanity. God invented sex and the natural attraction between a man and a woman. That attraction was first seen with Adam and Eve. Adam was lonely, so God caused him to sleep, removed one of his ribs and from that created Eve.

When Adam saw Eve, he was immediately drawn to her and sexual union followed. From that union both Cain and Abel were born. It is impossible for two men or two women to create another human being through sexual intercourse, which is why marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

However, marriage was not designed just for the basic privilege of a sexual relationship God designed marriage for procreation and as the vehicle through which children could be nurtured and cared for in the best possible surroundings, within an environment where a husband and wife (their father and mother) lived together in a secure, mutually loving and God-honouring union.

In fact, marriage was designed not only for a sexual relationship and the best place for the birth and nurture of children, but also as a practical picture of a spiritual position – an intimate relationship with God.

Throughout Scripture, we see a comparison between idolatry and adultery. Idolatry can be described as the worship of gods other than Yahweh, the Creator of the Universe and humanity. Those gods can be religious, like Baal, or more material-like articles, such as carved silver, wood or stone, or even demonic spirits. In fact, it can be anything that distracts us from the wholehearted following of God.

That is why the first of the Ten Commandments reads: *“You shall have no other gods before me” Exodus 20:3 TNIV.* Anything that gets between me and my unreserved devotion to God, through Jesus Christ, becomes an idol to me. Even though those things may not be evil in themselves, it depends on how much I allow them to control me and my time, or if they diminish my relationship with God. Similarly, adultery occurs when a spouse allows another person to usurp their marriage relationship.

Marriage needs to be seen as a covenant rather than a contract. For a contract, there are usually clauses that clarify its purpose, expectations and consequences, clauses that outline the laws governing the contract, the steps that must be taken if and when the contractual relationship ends, and the reasons or grounds for its termination. In simple terms, if one of the parties does not adhere to the terms of the contract, dissolution can or will take place.

Biblical marriage is not a contract; it is a covenant. A covenant is an unconditional promise. I promised to love and serve my wife, whether we became rich or poor, whether we lived in sickness or in health, and until either of us dies. It is not conditional upon her loving me and serving me. It isn't governed by my emotions, good or bad, nor is it dependent upon her doing what I say, want or

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desire. I cannot back out of marriage because she doesn't keep to her side of the bargain. It depends upon the integrity of my promise and character.

Since God created us to have a mutually loving relationship, He chose human marriage as a picture of that relationship. God describes Himself as the Husband who covenants to love, protect, care and provide for us, His 'wife'.

Indeed, He goes so far as to say that even though we are unfaithful to Him, He will remain faithful to us. You see, it is God's covenant, not a contract. It's a covenant that doesn't depend upon you and me; it relies entirely upon the integrity and character of our Eternal, Loving Creator God.

### **What does that name mean for us today**

It means that God will never ever leave us nor forsake us. His love is unconditional. Even when I fail Him (and if you are like me, that will be often), He will remain faithful to me. It doesn't depend on me and my actions. It all depends upon God's promises and His unchanging, perfect character.

### **Prayer**

*I thank You, Father, for being a God of the utmost integrity. Thank You for showing us what a husband should be like. Please help us to understand the awesome covenant of marriage. Amen*

### **Additional Readings**

- 2 Corinthians 11:1-6
- Ephesians 5:22-32
- Revelation 21:1-4

### **Questions**

1. Why did God use the term 'husband' for his relationship with Israel?
2. How do you feel when you consider God or Jesus wanting to be treated like your 'husband'?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?